

## TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONE AND CABLE COMPANY PERFINs

A non member, MR.W.T.GLOVER, purchased some of our catalogues for his own research purposes and has provided the Society with a few potted histories of companies having connections with telegraph, telephone and cables.

### 1. Anglo American Telegraph Company Limited

A0310.02    AAT/CL    stamp period not recorded.

This company was formed in 1865 to raise capital to try to lay a submarine cable across the Atlantic after the 1865 failure by the Atlantic Telegraph Company. This attempt succeeded in 1866. They also recovered the 1865 cable and completed it. Four more cables were laid for the company in 1873-4, 1894 and 1910. It took over the Atlantic Telegraph Company and the French Atlantic Telegraph Company in 1973. In 1911 the company came to an agreement with Western Union to lease its cables to Western Union. WU terminated this in 1963 paying Anglo American a substantial sum in compensation. This was paid out to shareholders and the Anglo American was liquidated on 10 December 1968.

I am not sure of their London office address but a reasonable guess would be EC2, around the Old Broad Street/Moorgate area, (known as Telegraph Alley).

### 2. Cable and Wireless

C8310.01    C&W    stamps Q-U

C8310.04    C&W    stamps M-Q

Cable and Wireless came into being in 1929 when the Eastern Telegraph Company and the Marconi Beam Wireless stations plus other cable companies merged into one company:- IMPERIAL & INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS LTD., with Cable and Wireless as the operating company. This had been brought about by the near bankruptcy of the cable companies by competition from Wireless. In 1934 the Imperial & International Communications Ltd name was dropped and Cable and Wireless became both the holding and operating company.

The head office was initially at ELECTRA HOUSE, MOORGATE, EC2. In 1933 it moved to ELECTRA HOUSE, VICTORIA EMBANKMENT, WC2. In November 1955 a further move was made to MERCURY HOUSE, THEOBOLDS ROAD, WC1.

Their principle telegraph station was at TOWER BUILDINGS, MOORGATE, EC2. In addition they had around two dozen telegraph stations in the London area including one at 18 Old Broad Street, EC2. They had a similar number of offices in the provinces, i.e.:- Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle upon Tyne.

### 3. The Exchange Telegraph Company

|           |       |            |                           |
|-----------|-------|------------|---------------------------|
| E4670.01p | E/T   | stamps Q-R | Ø suspected identity only |
| E4700.01  | ETC   | stamps Q-W |                           |
| E4700.03  | ETC   | stamps F   |                           |
| E4720.01  | E/T/C | stamps U   |                           |

Formed in 1872, this was a news agency supplying information to newspapers, stockbrokers, radio and later television companies etc., who rented telegraph equipment direct from the company. They also supplied the wire service to bookmakers when bookies shops became legal. At no time did it provide a public service. Head office was at 17-18 Cornhill from 1872 until 1919; 64 Cannon Street from 1919 until 1965 (acquired 62 Cannon street in 1922); Extel House from 1956 onwards (address unknown but situated halfway between Fetter Lane and Shoe Lane 100 yards north of Fleet Street.)

Other premises used by this company were:-

8 Picadilly; 14-15 Panton St; Creechurch Lane; 36-8 Whitefriars Street; Newcomen Street; 22 Budge Row; 13-19 Curtain Road; 61 Knightrider Street; 15 Cannon Place; 85 Tooley St.; 17 Moorgate Street; 16 Fitzjohns Avenue; 21-24 Old Change; 36-7 Queen Street.

The above (3) is taken from EXTEL 100 The Centenary History of the Exchange and Telegraph Company by J.M.Scott published in 1972.

### 4. The Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company

|          |              |            |                      |
|----------|--------------|------------|----------------------|
| T1000.01 | T.C.&/M.Co.L | Stamps A-B | Ø suspected 1d' only |
|----------|--------------|------------|----------------------|

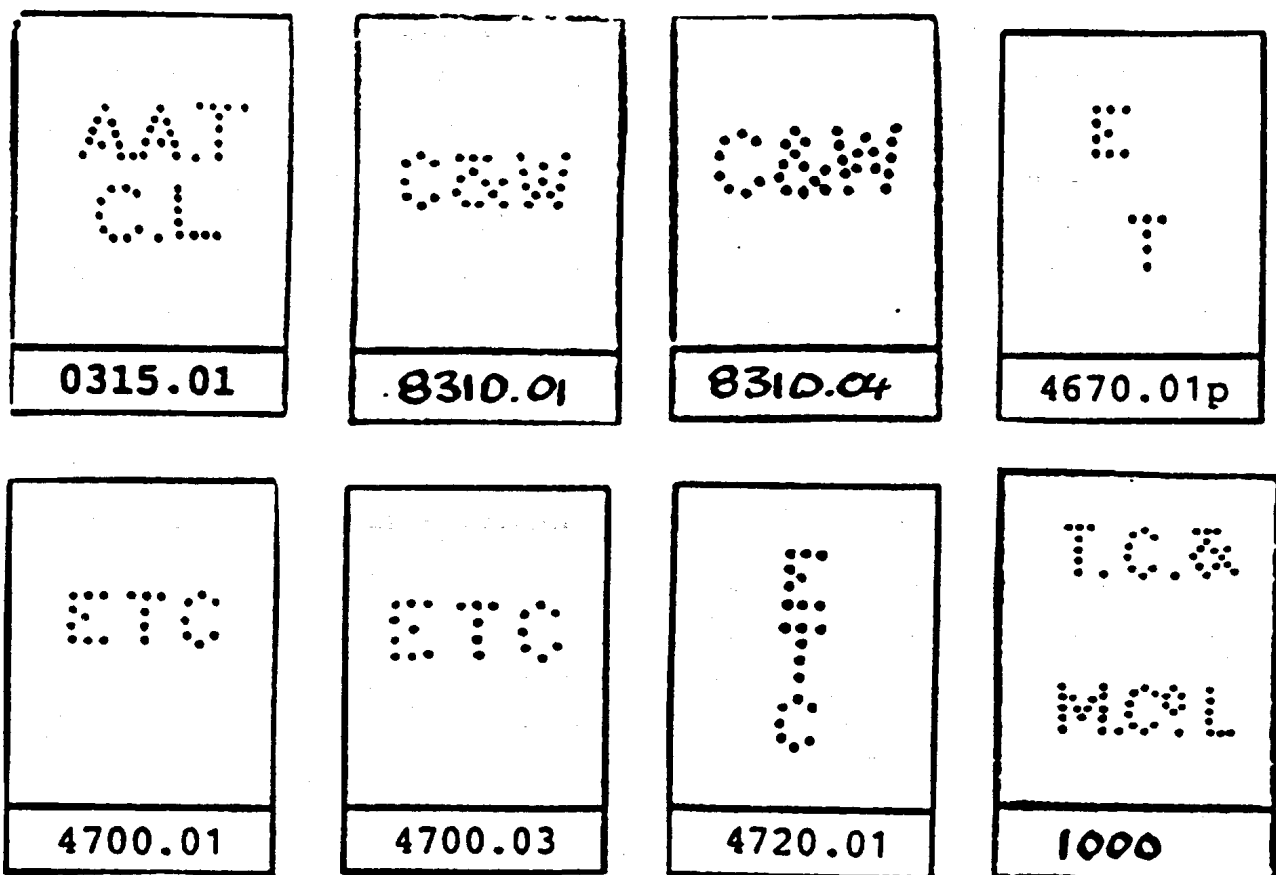
Formed on 7 April 1864 by the merger of The Gutta Percha Coy and Glass, Elliot and Company. Their first registered office was 54 Old Broad Street, London EC2. In 1869 they moved to 38 Old Broad Street and remained there until 1936 when they moved to 22 Old Broad Street. The trade name of the company was TELCON. The main cable making factory was at Enderby's Wharf, Greenwich. It is still used by STC today but not for cable manufacture.

Their principle trade was that of submarine cable manufacturers and installers, becoming the largest such company in the world. In the period of their existence they manufactured in excess of 500,000 miles of submarine telegraph and telephone cables.

In 1935, Telecon and Siemens Brothers merged their submarine cable businesses and called the new company Submarine Cables Limited. Each company holding 50% of the shares.

On 9th February 1959 British Insulated Callenders Cables acquired the share capital of Telcon and split the company up retaining those parts it required and abandoning others. Effectively from that date Telcon ceased to exist. Submarine Cables Ltd continued as before but with BICC owning 50% shares.

In November 1966 BICC sold its holding in Submarine Cables Ltd to AEI, who having already taken over Siemens Bros., now owned the whole of Submarine Cables Ltd. On 4th November 1970 they sold Submarine Cables Ltd to Standard Telephone and Cables Ltd and the firm ceased to exist as a separate company from that date.



Further companies in the next Bulletin.

By MR.W.T.GLOVER

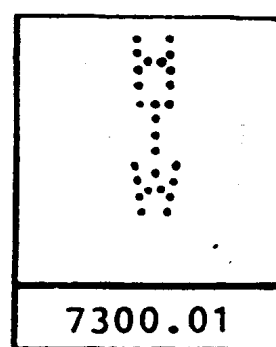
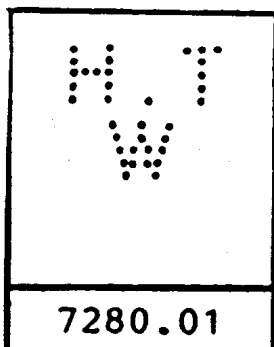
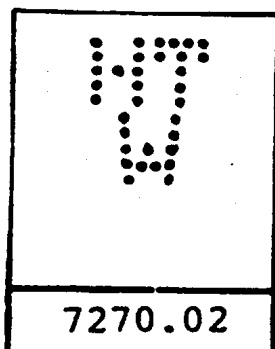
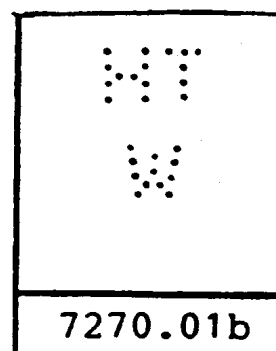
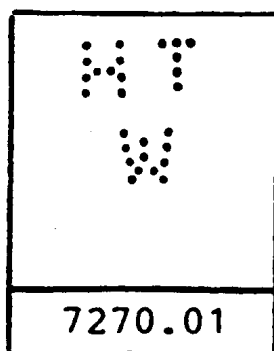
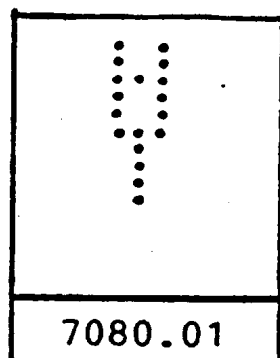
5. W.T.Henley's Telegraph Works

|            |       |                               |
|------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| H7080.01   | H/T   | stamps U                      |
| H7270.01   | HT/W  | stamps R-0                    |
| H7270.01bm | HT/W  | stamps not recorded but S12xl |
| H7270.02   | HT/W  | stamps I-R (POKO)             |
| H7280.01   | H.T/W | stamps B-0                    |
| H7300.01   | H/T/W | stamps I                      |

W. T. Henley began making scientific instruments and in so doing met Charles Wheatstone who was developing his electric telegraph. Henley made most of the early instruments. From this he went on to manufacturing and laying submarine telegraph cables both for his own firm and as sub contractor to the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company.

After getting into difficulties Henley's firm was reorganised as W.T. Henley's Telegraph Works Company in 1880. The factory was at North Woolwich. The head office being at 51-53 Hatton Garden, London E.C.1.

Just after W.W.2 it was taken over by AEI but retained its identity until 1960 when it was absorbed into AEI, the factory at North Woolwich being closed.



## 6. Standard Telephone and Cables Limited

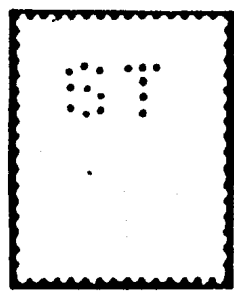
|           |       |  |
|-----------|-------|--|
| S7060.01b | ST    | stamps R-U (Roils)                     |
| S7060.03  | ST    | stamps Q-U (Rolls)                     |
| S7060.03A | ST    | stamps M-Q                             |
| S7210.03  | ST/C  | stamps I-M (POKO)                      |
| S7230.01a | S/T/C | stamps Q                               |
| S7230.02  | S/T/C | stamps I-Q (only a suspected identity) |

On 2 May 1883 the Western Electric Company, the manufacturing arm of American Telephone & Telegraph, (AT&T), opened an office at 59 Moorgate, London E.C.2, to sell Bell telephones and equipment manufactured in the USA and Belgium.

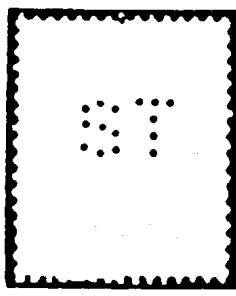
In 1898 WE bought cable manufacturer Fowler-Waring Cables Company based at North Woolwich. The factory was sold in a re-organisation programme in the early 1970's.

In 1925 WE sold its overseas offices and works to International Telephone and Telegraph and this company changed the name or the UK firm to Standard Telephone and Cables Limited.

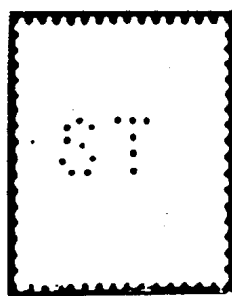
The head office moved to Connaught House, Aldwych, London WC2 in November 1922. The next move took place in 1965 when head office moved to 190 The Strand, London WC2. Sometime post 1983 head office moved to Christchurch Way, Greenwich, London SE10.



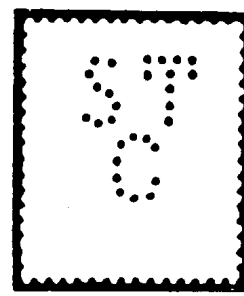
7060.01b



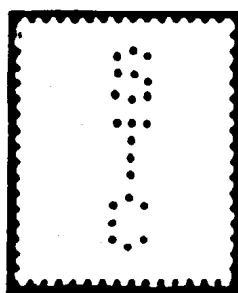
7060.03



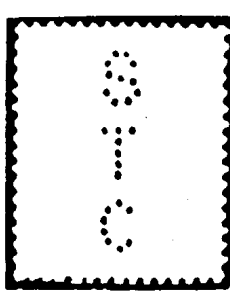
7060.03A



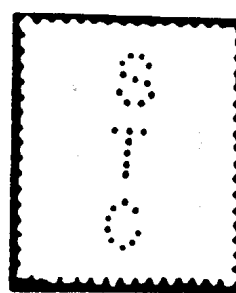
7210.03



7230.01a



7230.02



Note: Extra pin in 'C' prior to c1930.

## 7. Western Union Telegraph Company

W7710.01M    WU    stamps R-S  
W7710.03p    WU    stamps R (only a suspected identity)  
W7720.01    W.U    stamps I-M  
W7710.03p    WU    stamps R (only a suspected identity)  
W7720.01    W.U    stamps I-M

(See Anglo American Telegraph Company - No. 1 in Bulletin 276.)

Leased its first trans Atlantic cable from American Telephone and Telegraph in 1881. Had a second cable laid in the following year. Leased cables from Anglo American and in effect the two companies operated as one.

Also leased cables from the Direct United States Telegraph Company until these were taken over by the GPO in 1920. In the early 1940's Western Union were forced to sell their overseas interests by the US Government. Unable to find a buyer they finally formed a separate and totally independent company. Western Union International Inc in 1963.

I have an envelope of WU with a meter slogan dated 9 May 1930 London EC2 (this I would take to be their head telegraph office) and another stamped with a 1951 KGVI 2½d unperfinned with post-mark GLASGOW 31-5-51. They undoubtedly had a good number of offices both in London and the provinces; much like Cable and Wireless.

